

WEMMICK AUDITION PIECE

P 40/41

(PIP turns to JAGGERS, who is with WEMMICK and MOLLY)

Pip Mr Jagers!

Jagers Wait! Hands! Mr Wemmick, you are getting slack.

Wemmick Me, sir?

Jagers I have distinctly prohibited you from allowing Creatures to pester me.

Wemmick Sir.

Jagers Mr Wemmick, but a moment ago a young woman pawed at me, blubbering some nonsense about her child — a wretched little girl about to be imprisoned. She hadn't paid you, Mr Wemmick. She had no business to be there.

There were tears, Mr Wemmick. She was leaking like a cheap pen. In my own office hallway. I won't have it.

Wemmick No, sir.

Jagers You're not having feelings, are you, Mr Wemmick?

Wemmick No, sir.

Jagers I won't have feelings in my office. Is that understood?

Wemmick Yes sir.

Jagers Now, pay Pip his money.

(Exit JAGGERS and MOLLY. WEMMICK counts the money.)

Pip It's a lot of money, Mr Wemmick.

Wemmick Some people would think so, sir.

Pip More than I need. There's others need it.

Wemmick People always think they need money, sir.

Pip There is so much distress.

Wemmick Distress is a relative word, sir. There's your money.

Pip Mr Wemmick.

Wemmick Sir

Pip I want to help someone. Anyone. I want to help.

Wemmick How many bridges are there, sir, over the river?

Pip Mr Wemmick?

Wemmick There's London, one, Southwark, two, Blackfriars, three. Waterloo, four. Westminster, five and Vauxhall, six.

You've as many as six, see, sir, to choose from.

Pip No, Mr Wemmick, I don't see at all.

Wemmick Choose your bridge, sir, and take a walk upon it. Stop at the centre arch. Parcel your money up and pitch it into the Thames. Then you'll know the end of it. Use it to help, sir, and you'll know the end of it too.

A much less pleasant and profitable end. Good day.

Pip Why do their faces twitch so? Why are they so puffed up?

Wemmick They were hanged.

Pip Why were they hanged, Wemmick? What had they done?

Wemmick One for coining. One for forging wills. And he did a bit of murder on the side. But he'd have got off for that.

It was the wills he had to hang for. They could never forgive him that. Still. You were a good client, weren't you, Artful? You both were. Good clients. You were the making of us.

That's why we had you cut down straight after the hanging, and the cast made. To say thank you.

They gave me these. They usually gave me something, old clients. Before they drop. Unless they're destitute. Mr Jagers does ask substantial fees. But then he earns them.

And there's always a little something left over, even if it's just a brace of pigeons for the pot. Some of 'em puts in a word for me at the butcher's so I'll get a good cut of steak. See this?

Prime steak. Got it off this morning's burglar. You see, sir, I've got my old father out at Walworth and he likes a bit of steak. Or it might be something more

substantial. A brooch, perhaps, or a funeral ring. Sometimes it's a pair of trousers, or a jacket or a tie. It's a good

pair I've got on now. Belonged to a poisoner. He was always very particular about the clothes he wore. They've done me for years.

Oh, I know for someone like you, sir, with all your riches, they must seem like nothing at all. But they count for me, sir, they count for me. They're property, you

see. Portable property. There's one rule in life, sir. I find it prudent to apply: always get hold of portable property.

Pip Is that all life is? That we should feast off each other like vultures?

Wemmick Don't take on so, sir. It's only work.